


**Summer Field School [Online] on  
 MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEMS AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
 Ivano-Frankivsk Region, Ukraine :: 19-28 September, 2021**

**DELEGATE PARTICIPANT'S PROFILE**

	<p><b>Dr. Om N. Katel</b>  <i>Dean of Research and Industrial Linkages &amp; Lecturer</i>        Department of Environment and Climate Studies        College of Natural Resources        Royal University of Bhutan</p> <p>Lobesa, Punakha, Bhutan        Tel: +975-2-376250        Email: <a href="mailto:ombhutan2016@gmail.com">ombhutan2016@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>Highest Education</b></p>	<p>PhD in Natural Resources Management</p>
<p><b>Personal Statement</b></p>	<p>I would like to participate as delegate participant for the forthcoming Summer School on 'Mountain Ecosystems and Resource Management'. I believe that natural resources management, climate change and sustainable development of mountain environment is an issue. We can see that coastal areas, urban development, resources sustainability etc is taken into consideration however the issue of mountains such as urbanization in mountains, natural resources in mountains is rarely mentioned in any of the documents prepared by decision makers. In this context, I am confident that to a small extent, I can learn and also would like to share my own experience with the forum as this forum mentions the 'Mountain Ecosystems and Resource Management' which is my interest areas and would like to work and contribute towards sustainable development in mountains in the future. In the Royal University of Bhutan at the College of Natural Resources, I teach several courses pertaining to environmental management, environmental sustainability, Climate Change and sustainable development. I am sure that this course will help me to understand further and will help me strengthen my knowledge on the subject. Also research at my University is at its infancy so through the summer school, I believe that I would be able to get some insights into mountains that ultimately will help me to contribute towards designing the research projects for collaboration and linkages.</p>
<p><b>Paper/Presentation Title</b></p>	<p><i>Livelihood Strategies and Forest Resources Use by Mountain People and its Implication to Conservation Management in Bhutan.</i></p>

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<b>(Unpublished Research or Review or Field Work)</b>	
<b>Keywords</b>	Mountain people; Institutions; Forest management; Sustainability
<b>Abstract (100-300 words)</b>	Local perceptions is crucial for sustainable management of natural resources in the mountain environment particularly the forest resources. This paper examines the use of forest resources by local residents in high mountain areas of Bhutan and explores the sustainability of local resources in the context of global environmental change. The methodology encompasses local residents' responses and their practices which were documented as case studies. The studies also assesses the ecosystem management strategies and their applications and use by local residents. The result indicate that the local resources are limited and is further constrained by conservation policies and global environmental change. Livestock grazing and natural resources extraction appears to be the major problem in the study area where local resource extraction knowledge and perception plays a major role in sustainable development. Findings show that local rural people who are exposed to frequent threats from wildlife and perceive that resources may be extracted by their nearby communities do make them feel that the resources may be extracted by someone else which is at their disposal. Although they recognize the goods and services they get from the forest, the shrinkage of resources due to human extraction and global environment change is a critical issue.
<b>Paper/Presentation Title (Unpublished Research or Review or Field Work)</b>	<i>Farmers' Vulnerability to Climate Variability and Change in Punakha-Wangdue Valley, Western Bhutan</i>
<b>Keywords</b>	Climate Change Variability; Farmer's Livelihoods; Farmers' Vulnerability
<b>Abstract (100-300 words)</b>	Climate variability and change may affect different sectors communities of differently to farmers living in different places. Among the people living in different places, those living in developing countries particularly farmers may be relatively more vulnerable to climate variability and change than the others. This is because farmers particularly those living in Himalayan region

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	<p>practice subsistence farming and are relatively more dependent on climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture, livestock production and forests. Bhutan is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate variability and change owing mainly to the location, steep topography and limited land for agriculture such as crop farming. However, it is not clear on how farmers’ vulnerability differs with regard to their place of living and geographical conditions. This study aims document livelihood vulnerability index and IPCC vulnerability index of two districts; Punakha and Wangdue in western Bhutan. A total of 140 households practicing subsistence farming were interviewed. Data on socio-demographics, livelihood determinants, social networks, health, food and water security, natural disasters and climate variability were collected and combined into the indices. Both indices differed for farmers’ vulnerability to climate variability in between two districts. Substantial variation across the districts was observed in components, sub-components and three dimensions (exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity) of vulnerability. We expect that these findings would help policy makers and implementers to designing site specific intervention strategies that would reduce farmers’ vulnerability to climate variability and change.</p>
<p><b>More Information (weblinks)</b></p>	<p><a href="http://www.cnr.edu.bt">www.cnr.edu.bt</a>          ORCID: 0000-0003-3470-3903;          Google Scholar:  <a href="https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=7VKGhoAAAAJ&amp;hl=en">https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=7VKGhoAAAAJ&amp;hl=en</a></p>